



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: June 1, 2021

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SOUTHEAST ALASKA RED AND BLUE KING CRAB PERSONAL USE FISHERY

The Southeast Alaska personal use red (RKC) and blue king crab (BKC) fishery outside of Section 11-A (Juneau Area) is updated with the following information regarding the 2021/2022 season:

- **Peril Strait, Lynn Sisters, Seymour Canal, Pybus Bay, Excursion Inlet, and Gambier Bay will remain closed to RKC and BKC personal use fishing.**
- **Beginning at 12:01 a.m., July 1, 2021, Alaska residents fishing for RKC and BKC must have an Alaska Department of Fish and Game 2021/2022 Southeast Alaska Regional Personal Use King Crab Permit (excluding Section 11-A red and blue king crab) [5 AAC 77.664(a)].**
- **Beginning at 12:01 a.m., July 1, 2021, all areas open to personal use king crab fishing will have a daily bag and possession limit of one RKC or BKC as prescribed in regulation [5 AAC 77.664(b)].**

The permit is free and available through the department's online store at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/. Personal use fishermen must sign their permit to make it valid and have the permit along with a current sport fishing license in their possession while taking part in personal use king crab fisheries in Southeast Alaska. Regional personal use king crab permits are valid for RKC and BKC in all open areas except Section 11-A which is managed under a separate permit. Permits must be filled out each time king crab pots or ring nets are retrieved (or dive gear is used) whether king crab are harvested or not, before leaving the fishing area. Permit holders are required to report their harvest either online any time at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Harvest/> or by turning in the completed permit at the end of the season.

Survey and Fishery Information:

Red and blue king crab may be taken from July 1 through March 31 [5 AAC 77.664(c)(1)]. Since the 2021 Southeast Alaska RKC and BKC stock assessment survey will not be completed until August 2021, the department used 2020 RKC and BKC stock assessment survey results to set bag and possession limits and determine open areas for the RKC and BKC personal use fishery outside of Section 11-A. Red and blue king crab stock assessment survey results from 2020 indicate the following:

- The regionwide harvestable biomass of mature RKC and BKC is below 200,000 lbs.
- Stock health in Gambier Bay remains poor.
- Stock health in Lynn Sisters has improved slightly but remains categorized as moderate with male recruitment and legal biomass concerns.
- Stock health in Seymour Canal and Peril Strait improved to below average, but both showed a decrease in mature and legal biomass.
- Stock health in Pybus Bay improved slightly but remains categorized as below average with mature male biomass levels a concern.
- Excursion Inlet declined from below average to poor.
- All non-surveyed areas appear to have stocks that can withstand a low level of harvest.

Juneau Area: Section 11-A:

Status of the RKC and BKC personal use fishery within Section 11-A will be addressed in a separate advisory announcement once the survey is complete in late July. For more information on the RKC and BKC personal use fishery within Section 11-A please contact April Rebert at (907) 465-4274 or Adam Messmer at (907) 465-4853.

Closed Area Descriptions:

- Peril Strait: Section 13-C, Peril Strait (all waters of Peril Strait including Hoonah Sound, Ushk Bay, Rodman Bay, Saook Bay, Hanus Bay, Sitkoh Bay, and contiguous waters west of a line from Point Hayes to Point Thatcher, and north of a line from Pogibshi Point due west to the Chichagof shoreline).
- Lynn Sisters: Waters north of a line from a point at 58°27.00' N lat, 135°06.50' W long, due east to a point at 58°27.00' N lat, 135°03.00' W long, and west of a line from a point at 58°27.00' N lat, 135°03.00' W long, to Point Whidbey including St. James Bay.
- Seymour Canal: Section 11-D, Seymour Canal (waters of Seymour Canal north of 57°37.00' N lat).
- Gambier Bay: Gambier Bay waters north and west of a line between Point Gambier and 57°24.90' N lat, 133°53.00' W long.
- Pybus Bay: Pybus Bay waters north and west of a line from Point Pybus to the easternmost tip of San Juan Island and from there to a point at 57°14.60' N lat, 134°07.30' W long.
- Excursion Inlet: Waters east of a line from a point at 58°22.57' N lat, 135°30.08' W long, south to a point at 58°19.28' N lat, 135°30.06' W long, and north of a line from a point at 58°19.28' N lat, 135°30.06' W long to a point at 58°16.13' N lat, 135°20.61' W long including Excursion Inlet.

Refer to Figure 1 showing open and closed waters for personal use red and blue king crab fishing.

Other Information:

For additional information visit the Southeast Alaska Personal Use King Crab Fishery website: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=PersonalUsebyAreasoutheastkingCrab.regs>. Please refer to 5 AAC 77.664 in the 2020-2021 Statewide Subsistence and Personal Use Fishing Regulations booklet for additional regulations regarding personal use RKC and BKC fishing, or view the regulations online at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial>.

Analysis of the 2021 Southeast Alaska RKC and BKC stock assessment survey results will be completed by mid-September. Any changes to the 2021/2022 Southeast Alaska personal use RKC and BKC fishery outside of Section 11-A will be announced at that time.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1C1521.

Advisory Announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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<i>ADF&G</i>	225-5195	772-3801		747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220

Personal Use Red and Blue King Crab Areas in Registration Area A

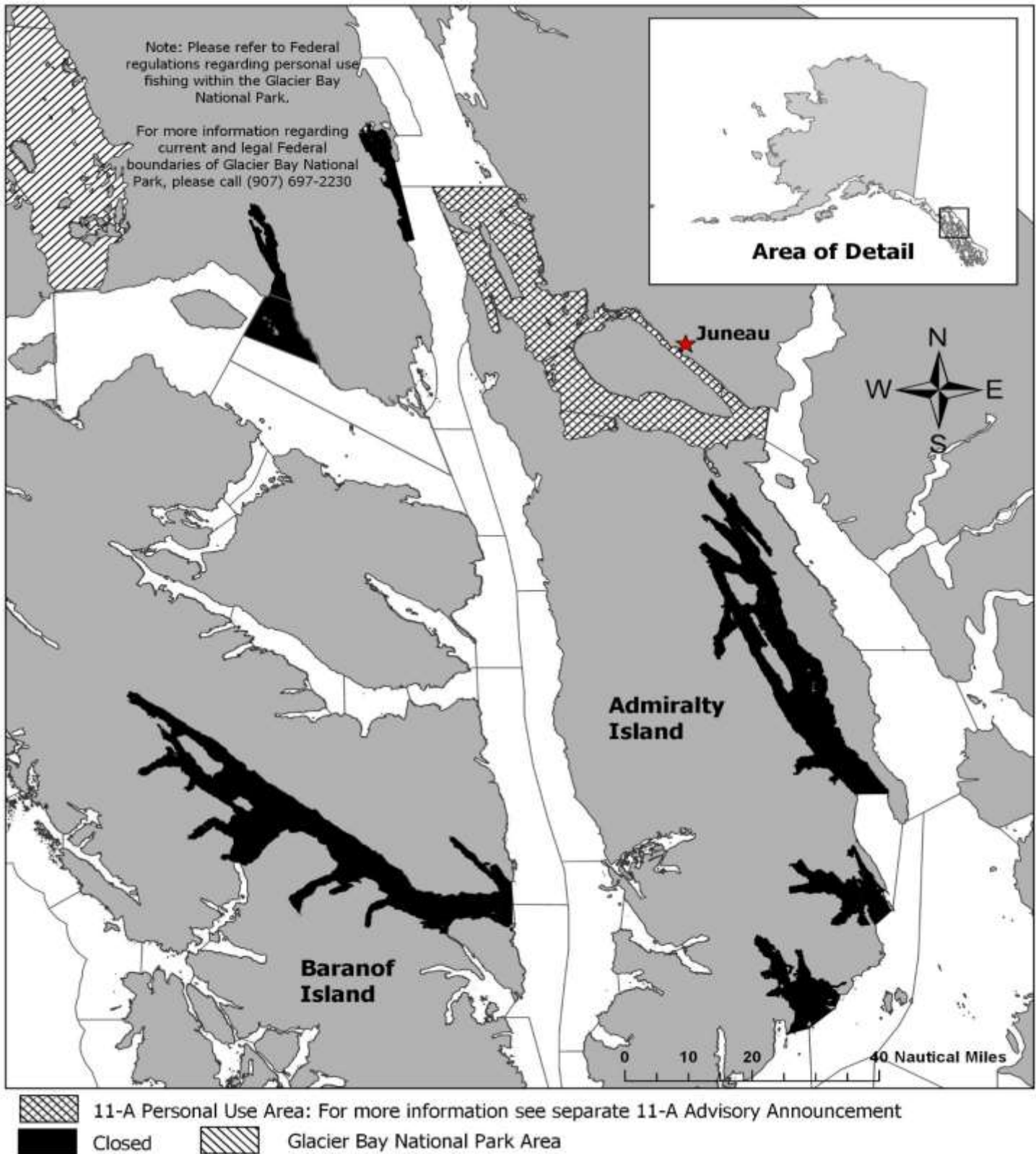


Figure 1. This map shows closed areas for the 2021/2022 RKC and BKC crab personal use fishery and is for reference purposes only. Please refer to text in this advisory announcement for legal descriptions of management area boundaries and other details.